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DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS CENTER
TWA HIJACKING WORKING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 19
SITUATION AS OF 0500 EDT, JUNE 23, 1985

Nabih Barri and other senior Amal leaders publicly expressed their fears of possible military action to free the hostages, with Barri stating that such a move could inflict serious harm on the captives. Reflecting Barri's nervousness, at 2200 EDT Embassy Beirut reported that 21 flares were seen fired off the Beirut coastal road, illuminating a freighter 3000 meters off the airport. Coastal batteries opened fire at the ship, which did not respond.

Jerusalem radio reported that "a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Bern" reported that Barri had called Swiss Foreign Minister Aubert and expressed readiness to "transfer the hostages to Switzerland." Embassy Bern is attempting to confirm whether such a statement was made by the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

The Syrian Government has indicated to us that it has continued its efforts at the highest levels to be of assistance with Barri in resolving the crisis.

Press reports indicate that the governments of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India have issued statements condemning the hostage-taking.

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William Kirby
William Kirby
Co-Director TWAHWG

Bruce Strathearn
Bruce Strathearn
Senior Watch Officer.

SECRET
DECL: OADR

State Dept. review completed

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